

WARDEN MESSAGE

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Embassy of the United States of America
Consular Section

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This message is intended for the American community in Syria. If you have any questions, please contact the Consular Section at the above address. If you wish to be added to our e-mail distribution, we invite you to complete the registration process through our new registration website. To access the site please enter the following link address <http://travel.state.gov> or directly, at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>.

WARDENS: Transmission of the following announcement by telephone is mandatory.

Violent Assault of Two Western Women in Damascus

The U.S. Embassy was notified that two Western women were victims of physical and sexual assault in the Old City of Damascus last weekend. The two women were walking at night along Straight Street when approached by a car containing several males. One of the women was physically attacked and disabled by the use of a stun gun-like device which emitted an electric shock. The other woman was abducted and driven to an undisclosed location and then sexually assaulted by them. The victim was then later dropped off at the abduction site. The U.S. Embassy wishes to remind Americans in Syria that this violent incident indicates possible premeditation and targeting of Westerners. The crime was executed swiftly and serves as a reminder that despite heavy police presence in the city, violent incidents do occur in Damascus. American citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their level of security awareness.

For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, including the Travel Warning for Syria, as well as the Country Specific Information for Syria can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus can be reached 24 hours a day at 963-11-3391-4444; the fax number is 963-11-3391-3999. The Embassy's web site, which includes consular information and the most recent messages to the American community in Damascus, is at <http://damascus.usembassy.gov>.